



Observatory

NATO News & Opinion Clips

Promoting a more transparent and accountable NATO

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Welcome to NATO Watch's monthly *Observatory*: the only online publication dedicated entirely to news and independent commentary on NATO policy-making and operational activities. The clips are drawn from a wide range of subscriptions, feeds and alerts covering a substantial part of the major English language newspapers and other periodicals worldwide. If you are short on time – go straight to the recommended reading, marked **★★**

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NATO Watch Editorial:

The information gaps in the Secretary General's second annual report

On 31 January, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen launched his [second Annual Report](#) at a press conference in the NATO HQ in Brussels. [First time around, we gave this initiative qualified support](#), while raising a number of concerns about the usefulness and purpose of a reporting system in which the head of the organisation has free reign to choose the story to tell about itself.

Instead of meeting an accountability requirement—to member parliaments and other stakeholders, including the general public—we warned that the reports could end up as little more than public relations devices, contrived to illustrate NATO's wonderful achievements while remaining mute on negative features.

The Secretary General's second report substantiates those fears: more PR gloss than a useful contribution to greater accountability. Again, there is no explanation given as to the purpose of the 20-page report, although it remains in keeping with Rasmussen's view of his own office as an independent agency for promoting NATO's strategic vision. As in the previous year, it provides an overview of NATO's operational priorities and challenges in the past 12 months, as well as his view of the types of capabilities and partnerships that the Alliance will need to face “emerging security challenges”.

In terms of content, the report once again adopts an overly optimistic view on transition in Afghanistan. Having asked whether the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are able to maintain security once the transfer of responsibility from ISAF is implemented, the report confidently asserts “developments over the past year show they can”. It then concludes that, “the ANSF are a credible and capable force, already demonstrating their ability to secure the country and population against the insurgency”.

This confident assessment and the selective use of metrics to endorse it are questioned by many independent experts. [Anthony Cordesman](#) from the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, for example, reaches a very different conclusion: “the more one looks at Afghanistan today, the more likely it seems that transition will at best produce a weak and divided

state and at worst a state that either continues its civil war or comes under Taliban and extremist control”.

A more realistic evaluation of the current situation in Afghanistan shows that there are serious—and potentially incurable—challenges to even a fully-resourced transition effort. Among the troubling issues that didn't make it into the report include NATO's suspension of prisoner transfers to the Afghan authorities as a result of ongoing and [extensive prisoner abuse](#), the growing number of [Afghans seeking asylum abroad](#) (last year, [at least 50,000 Afghans fled to Europe and Australia](#), more than twice as many as in 2011, and even more left for Pakistan and Iran), a [doubling of casualties among ANSF](#) over the past year and an annual rate of [Afghan troop desertions](#) possibly as high as 25 per cent.

These and other problems are rooted in major structural difficulties in Afghan leadership, governance, the economy and forces. As [Ann Jones](#) gloomily concludes, Afghanistan appears to be heading towards one of three unpalatable outcomes: compromise (with multiple insurgent militias, including the Taliban), conflict, or collapse.

Secretary General launching his report in Brussels on 31 January – photo credit: NATO)



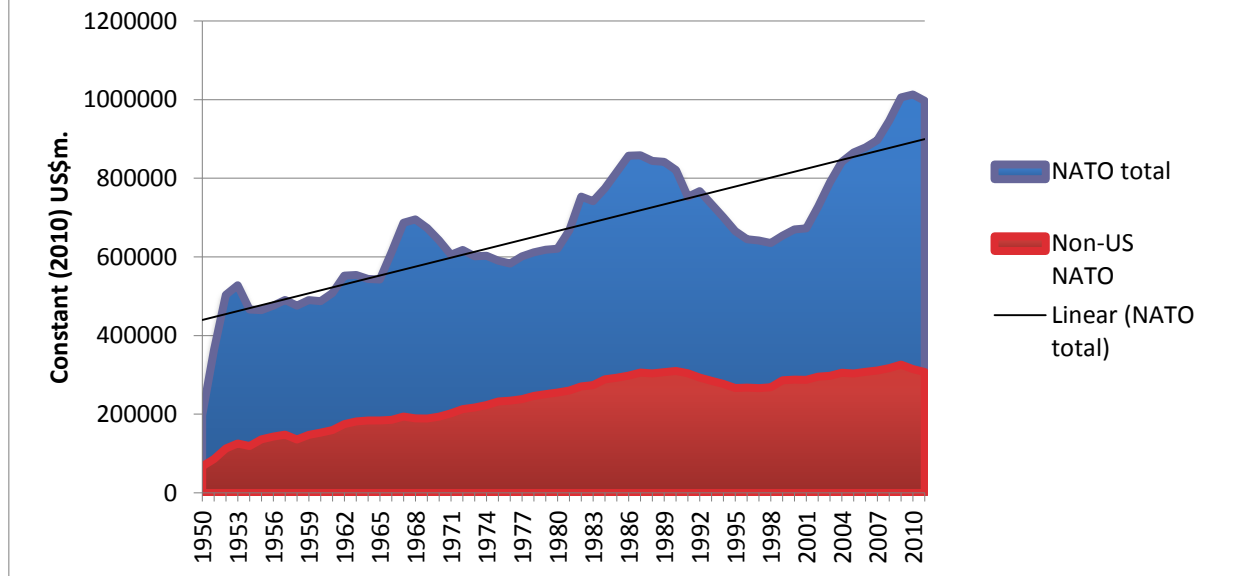
In addition to glowing summaries of NATO operations, the main thrust of the report warns of the negative impact of national

austerity measures on defence capabilities within the Alliance – a theme of many of the Secretary General's speeches in 2012, as well as his most recent [remarks at the Munich Security Conference](#). The report argues that current defence spending trends may lead to a widening of three perceived capabilities gaps: an intra-European gap; a transatlantic gap; and most astonishing of all, between the Alliance and emerging powers that “could create a growing gap between their capacity to act and exert influence on the international stage and our ability to do so”.

In a multi-polar world it is surely a given that NATO's capacity to exert influence on the international stage is constrained—and this is not necessarily a bad thing, unless the Secretary General believes that NATO is entitled to resort to unilateral force via the kind of global military supremacy that US neocons once craved. But Rasmussen's claim that NATO might end up with a “growing” capabilities gap with emerging powers has about as much veracity as the mythical [missile gap](#) of the Cold War. While acknowledging that NATO's “accumulated defence spending continues to be the highest in

Total NATO military spending 1950-2011, and total excluding US

(Source: SIPRI data)



the world" (60 per cent of the global total in 2011 to be exact), he bemoans the "steadily downward" trend from 69 per cent in 2003 to a projected 56 per cent in 2014. However, this selective use of statistics is misleading.

First, the longer linear trend in NATO defence spending is upward (as shown by the above chart) and not 'steadily downward', although it does contain periods of rise and fall. Indeed, NATO's defence spending has doubled in real terms since the 1950s, although of course NATO membership has also risen from 12 to 28 members over that time. The bottom line, however, is that NATO is hardly on a downward spending curve, as suggested in the Secretary General's report.

Second, the recent growth in defence spending in 'emerging powers' only fractionally begins to close *the huge capabilities gap that currently exists in NATO's favour* [emphasis added for the myopically challenged at NATO HQ]. According to the annual report's own data, defence spending as a percentage of world defence expenditures in the BRIC countries is expected to grow as follows: in Brazil from one per cent in 2003 to two per cent in 2014; in Russia from 2 per cent to five per cent; in India from two per cent to three per cent; and in China from four per cent to ten per cent. It is the latter, of course, that is disturbing Pentagon planners the most, but [Chinese power projection capability](#) still remains relatively small for operations outside its land borders.

Third, no allowance is made for the contributions of partner countries to the Alliance even though, as the report says, "many NATO partners have made particular political, operational and financial contributions to NATO-led operations". If the military budgets of just four NATO's partners—Japan, South Korea, Israel and Saudi Arabia—are added to the analysis, NATO and these allies accounted for over 70 percent of global military spending in 2010. Add in other key partner countries, such as Australia, Austria, Finland, Georgia, Jordan, Morocco, New Zealand, Qatar, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirate, and you get close to 80 per cent. Having developed a network of structured partnerships with countries across the Euro-Atlantic area, the Mediterranean and the Gulf region over the past two decades, what exactly is it that NATO has to fear from 'emerging powers'?

(Chinese dragon at kite festival Washington DC – photo credit: cayusa/ flickr)



The report also perpetuates at least two other defence spending myths. For example, pie charts showing that the United States' "share of Alliance defence spending" increased from 68 per cent in 2007 to 72 per cent in 2012 do not tell the entire story. [As we have pointed out previously](#), not every dollar spent by the Pentagon contributes to NATO's deterrence posture or gives substance to the alliance's Article 5 (collective defence) commitments. Large parts

of the US military budget—which is now stabilizing at levels significantly above Cold War peaks (adjusted for inflation) and far above the Cold War

average, in real terms—have nothing whatsoever to do with NATO. Within Europe, NATO is seen by most if not all of its member states as the cornerstone of their respective defence policies, whereas in the United States it is but one of several regional building blocks for a global military presence.

In the absence of any serious research to determine the proportion of the US defence budget, including capabilities and bases in the Persian Gulf, Western Pacific, East China Sea, South China Sea, Gulf of Oman, Pakistan, Horn of Africa, Yemen and Somalia, that are realistically geared towards the Alliance mission, the best that can be said is that Americans do pick up a disproportionate share of the NATO tab. But this is nowhere near the level that the Secretary General and others who should know better regularly suggest.

Certainly, there is no question that Europeans collectively do need to spend smarter and some individual countries may need to increase their defence equipment spending once the challenging economic circumstances have been overcome (and the report pulls no punches in effectively 'naming and shaming' nine allies that spent less than ten per cent of their defence expenditures on major equipment spending). But scaremongering about the rise of 'emerging powers' and exaggerating the size and significance of the 'transatlantic gap' do nobody any favours.

Second, while agreeing that European allies need to deal with budgetary deficits, the report also suggests that spending on defence itself is a vital contributor to economic growth, warning "if we cut defence spending too much, for too long, there is the risk that we could actually make the economic situation worse".

Historically, however, the evidence of a correlation between defence spending and GDP growth is mixed at best. And because of the capital intensive nature of much of contemporary military procurement, more growth in the economy, more innovation and more jobs are likely from comparable levels of public investment in civil projects and infrastructure programmes. If patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel, calling for defence spending as an economic stimulus comes a close second.

One final omission from the annual report is the continuing absence of any proposals in the area

of public disclosure reform. As NATO Watch never tires of stressing, this represents an ongoing blind spot in an otherwise reform-minded Secretary General. Linked to this is the need for a broader debate within NATO as to the purpose of his annual report and what goes in it. More needs to be done to link forecast performance and actual performance. This requires NATO having a set of appropriate measures and robust systems to collect the results, followed by independent (as well as in-house) analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of the information. It also requires greater public access to information.

As we said 12 months ago, the Secretary General's annual report is not an end in itself, but should be the starting point for reporting NATO's performance story.

Book Review:

The Strongman: Vladimir Putin and the struggle for Russia by Angus Roxburgh

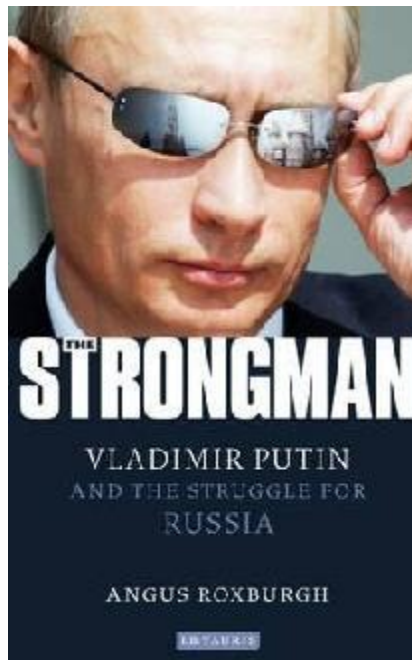
A review by Nigel Chamberlain, NATO Watch, with particular reference to NATO-Russia relations

The author's background, accumulated experience and access to significant players provides him with the ideal mix of political intrigue, historical justifications and tantalising titbits to pull together an interesting read for people wanting insight and balance.

Angus Roxburgh studied and taught Russian and worked as a translator in Moscow before becoming Moscow correspondent on the *Sunday Times* and for the *BBC*. Later he spent three years as advisor to Dmitry Peskov, Putin's press secretary, and was engaged as a consultant on the excellent *BBC* documentary 'Putin, Russia and the West'.

Vladimir Putin was unexpectedly propelled into high office by Boris Yeltsin on the last day of the 20th century. He has held either the office of the President or Prime Minister of Russia through the first decade and could remain in the top post well into the third decade of the 21st century.

Many western leaders initially "welcomed his fresh, new approach, and his willingness to cooperate and seek consensus" but Roxburgh documents how, and why, their hopes went unfulfilled. He explains how old Cold War enmities were not forgotten as the West and Russia both



failed to see the other's concerns which caused "a spiral of mutual distrust and lost opportunities".

Increasingly, the West saw Russia's political crackdown, the war in Chechnya, the murder of critical journalists, the growing state corruption, the invasion of Georgia and the interruption of gas supply to Ukraine as signs of a return to authoritarianism and the re-centralisation of power.

The Russians saw their positive gestures being ignored, the domineering role of the United States, their missile defence plans, the invasion of Iraq, NATO expansion and the encouragement, at least, of revolutionary movements in Georgia and the Ukraine as indications that they would not be accepted as a world power in their own right.

The Russians could not understand why their own behaviour at home meant that their neighbours continued to fear them. The Americans and their allies could not see that the Russians were upset by being cast in the role of potential aggressor. NATO's two summits in 2002 were hailed as ending the Cold War. In fact they helped to blow on its embers and start a new one. Seen from Moscow, the old Iron Curtain, running through the centre of Europe, was being replaced with a new one, much closer to home.

Roxburgh points to Russia's pathological fear of encirclement and state disintegration when smaller nations seek independence while perceptions and misperceptions of the other side's intentions often play a greater – and usually more harmful – role than reality. The result of which was Putin creating a top-down system – the 'vertical of power' – which instilled fear and stifled initiative. However, he adds that "the West's handling of post-Soviet Russia has been just about as insensitive as it could have been".

One of Putin's first acts was to try and build a productive relationship with NATO to make "Russia part of Europe" and to forge a constructive, personal relationship with the new President Bush. Bush responded by saying "I looked the man in the eye. I found him to be very straightforward and trustworthy", but it wasn't to last as events outlined above began to affect the mood music.

Chancellor Schroder of Germany supported Putin's idea of involving Russia in jointly ensuring Europe's security, even to the extent of Russia joining NATO. The then Secretary General, George Robertson, seemed less enthusiastic and his response angered Putin. The US withdrawal from the ABM

Treaty was the next move which was regarded as highly provocative by Russia, coupled with the US' determination to have facilities for missile defences based in Europe.

British Prime Minister Blair then came up with the proposal to create a new NATO-Russia Council (NRC) "to bind the Russians more closely to the Western Alliance" and provide them with 'Ambassador to NATO status' in Brussels from May 2002. Roxburgh suggests that the original idea – to give Russia a real voice short of membership – "got watered down in the NATO bureaucracy". Meanwhile, NATO expansion was aggressively promoted by the 'we won the Cold War' camp, regardless of Russia's fears, real or perceived.

By 2005, relations had degenerated into what Roxburgh refers to as a new Cold War as Russia reacted to the ever-increasing prospect of Georgia and Ukraine joining NATO with Putin telling Condoleezza Rice, "You do not know what you are doing. You are playing with fire". Roxburgh reveals that Angela Merkel agreed with Putin the efforts to integrate Georgia and Ukraine into NATO "would steeply raise tensions with Russia".

Early in 2007, Putin told his aides, "I've had enough" in response to news that missile interceptor bases might be placed in Poland and that a missile tracking radar might be based in the Czech Republic. He called the expansion of NATO "a provocation" and warned that a new Iron Curtain was descending across Europe.

As the incoming Russian President in 2008, Dmitry Medvedev proposed a new European Security treaty which would, in effect, replace all existing treaties and alliances thus making NATO redundant. Roxburgh says it was ignored mainly because it was divorced from reality but also hints that it had come too late in the post-Cold War realignment. Later, after witnessing stormy encounters at security conferences, Roxburgh "found myself wondering" if it might not have been more sensible to take Putin's earlier inquiries about Russia joining NATO more seriously "rather than cobbling together compromises explicitly designed to take Russia's view into account while pretending they did not". He concludes rather gloomily:

To this day, no serious attempt has been made to visualise a future in which all the countries of Europe and North America might act together to ensure their security, rather than imagining that the security of some can be built at the expense of the security of others.

(putin judo – photo credit: Jedimentat44/ flickr)



News, Commentary and Reports:

Afghanistan-Pakistan:

News

(photo credit: Stitch/flickr)

[Rights in Afghanistan at risk as NATO troops leave – report](#), *Reuters*, 1 February

[Afghans flee as Nato pullout nears](#), *Financial Times*, 31 January

[As NATO Prepares for Afghan Withdrawal, Uzbekistan Seeks War's Leftovers](#), *New York Times*, 31 January

[Departing U.S. general in Afghanistan weighs gains and uncertainty](#), *Washington Post*, 30 January

[Operation New Hope clears insurgent stronghold](#), ISAF New Release, 25 January

[Top commander in Afghanistan cleared in Pentagon inquiry](#), *Reuters*, 22 January

[Anti-Torture Efforts in Afghanistan Failed, U.N. Says](#), *New York Times*, 20 January

[Nato stops sending prisoners to Afghan jails after reports of torture](#), *The Guardian*, 18 January - UN report expected to confirm problems persist in jails

[Nato officer denies 'zero option' plan](#), *Financial Times*, 17 January

[Afghan army has deficiencies but it's getting there, says Nato general](#), *The Telegraph*, 15 January - Gen Sir Richard Shirreff, the deputy NATO commander in Europe, has conceded that the Afghan army has "deficiencies and gaps" but said they are now "stepping up to the plate"

[Afghan insider attacks 'not harming Nato operations'](#), *BBC News*, 15 January - insider attacks are not having "any major detrimental effects" on military operations in Afghanistan, the highest-ranking UK general in NATO has said

[Russia calls on NATO to stop killing Afghan](#)



[civilians](#), *The Voice of Russia*, 14 January

[Hamid Karzai: Afghans will decide on scale of US post-2014 presence](#), *The Guardian*, 14 January - President holds out prospect small force could stay on, and urges Washington to keep up current spending levels

[Obama Accelerates Transition of Security to Afghans](#), *New York Times*, 11 January

[Two dead in Quetta NATO terminal attack](#), *The Express Tribune*, 11 January

[Pakistanis trucking NATO supplies to Afghanistan go on strike](#), *Reuters*, 9 January

[NATO official: Afghan handover on schedule](#), *UPI.com*, 8 January

[U.S. Is Open to Withdraw Afghan Force After 2014](#), *New York Times*, 8 January - the Obama administration said that it was open to a so-called zero option that would involve leaving no American troops in Afghanistan after 2014, when the NATO combat mission there comes to an end

[British soldier killed by Afghan army gunman in Helmand](#), *BBC News*, 8 January - a British soldier has been shot dead and six others injured by a rogue member of the Afghan National Army

(Kabul refugee children welcome winter clothes from ISAF volunteers, 27 January – photo credit: ISAFmedia/ flickr)

Commentary and Reports

[As 2014 NATO pullout approaches, more Afghans flee their homeland](#), Kevin Sieff, *Washington Post*, 30 January

[Is Pakistan's Behavior Changing?](#) Frederic Grare, *Carnegie Article*, 30 January

[Afghan attacks on NATO troops aren't the biggest problem](#), Gary Owen, *The Globe and Mail*, 29 January

[Workshop examines way forward for the Building Integrity programme in Afghanistan](#), *NATO News*, 29 January - some twenty Afghan government experts from the defence and security sector took part in a "Senior Education



Workshop" to discuss ways to build capacity and capabilities among the personnel of the Afghan Ministries of Defence and Interior

[Treatment of Conflict-Related Detainees in Afghan Custody](#), United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, January 2013

[Afghanistan's security prospects after Nato withdrawal](#), Frank Gardner, *BBC News*, 28 January

♣♣ [Counting Down to 2014 in Afghanistan - Three Lousy Options: Pick One](#), Ann Jones, *TomDispatch.com*, 27 January

♣♣ [Afghanistan: Meeting the Real World Challenges of Transition](#), Anthony H. Cordesman, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, 23 January

[Pakistan: Countering Militancy in PATA](#), International Crisis Group, *Asia Report* N°242, 15 January

[Don't Rush Out of Afghanistan](#), Michael E. O'Hanlon, Brookings Institution, 9 January

[Still a Long Way to Go: Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women in Afghanistan](#), United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, December 2012

Counter-Terrorism:

[Does Decapitating Terrorist Leaderships Work?](#) Anne Speckhard, *RUSI Analysis*, 7 January

Cyber Security:

[Broad Powers Seen for Obama in Cyberstrikes](#), *New York Times*, 3 February

[Estonia's DM Stresses EU-NATO Cyber Cooperation](#), *Defense News*, 30 January

[NATO wants to establish road map for cyber defense](#), *Defense Systems*, 28 January

[UK to join Nato cyber-defence centre in 2013](#), *ZDNet*, 23 January - David Cameron has told the Estonian prime minister the UK will join the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence

[NATO Computers Infiltrated by "Red October" Malware](#), *Daily Tech*, 15 January

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[Nato chief warns on Europe's gaps in Mali](#), *Financial Times*, 3 February

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[Threat](#), US Department of Defense, 2 February

[NATO chief urges Europe not to cut defense budgets](#), *The Jakarta Post*, 2 February

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[In Europe, a Moment of Truth on Defense](#), *Wall Street Journal*, 31 January

[Nato chief: EU must spend more on military](#), *EU Observer*, 31 January

[Defense in an Age of Austerity - NATO Forces Approach Financial Day of Reckoning](#), Stephen Larrabee, RAND, January 2013

[Hold the line on defence spending, Secretary General urges](#), NATO News, 31 January

[NATO chief to warn defence cuts could endanger alliance's power](#), *Reuters*, 30 January

[Thales... Performance + Cost Factors For NATO Face Improvement \(SATCOM\)](#), *SatNews Publishers*, 28 January - Thales has been awarded a contract by the NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency to upgrade the protected SATCOM capability of NATO

[EADS: Cassidian supplies IT infrastructure for NATO Headquarters](#), *4-traders*, 28 January

[THALES: wins contract to upgrade NATO protected SATCOM capability](#), *4-traders*, 25 January

[Nordic defence "pool and share" pact proposed, appeal of Gripen a big selling point](#), Andrew Elwell, *Defence IQ*, 25 January

[NATO member orders Falcon III radios](#), *UPI.com*, 18 January - an unidentified member of NATO has ordered tactical line-of-sight and beyond-line-of-site radios from the US communications company, Harris Corporation

[Developing remote-controlled robots to clear roadside bombs](#), NATO News, 18 January - several Allies are working together to identify the best equipment for route clearance operations in

Afghanistan, including remote-controlled robots. This is one of a package of multinational 'Smart Defence' projects launched at NATO's Chicago Summit in 2012 (photo credit: NATO)

[Austerity haunts NATO's future](#), *UPI, Asia*, 17 January



[ISS awarded NATO management advisory services contract](#), *Info4Security*, 10 January

[Deepening German-Dutch Defence Cooperation for Europe's Security Needs](#), Marcel Dickow, Margriet Drent, Lennart Landman, Marco Overhaus, and Dick Zandee, *SWP Working Paper/ Clingendael Report*, January 2013 - based on input for an expert meeting on German-Dutch defence cooperation which took place in November 2012 in Brussels

[GD Canada supplies software to NATO](#), *UPI.com*, 8 January

Drones:

[Drone Strike Prompts Suit, Raising Fears for U.S. Allies](#), *New York Times*, 30 January

[Northrop results lifted by drone demand](#), *Financial Times*, 30 January

[Investigate This](#), Micah Zenko, *Foreign Policy*, 29 January - the UN will pry America's drones out of our cold, dead hands

[U.S. Weighs Base for Spy Drones in North Africa](#), *New York Times*, 28 January

[UN to examine UK and US drone strikes](#), *The Guardian*, 24 January - strikes will be studied to assess extent of any civilian casualties, identity of militants targeted and legality of actions

[CIA drone strikes will get pass in counterterrorism 'playbook,' officials say](#), *New York Times*, 19 January

[The UK and Armed Drones](#), Helen Jane Martin, *BASIC*, 17 January

[Who Says You Can Kill Americans, Mr. President?](#) Vicki Divoll, *New York Times*, 16 January

♣♣ [Reforming U.S. Drone Strike Policies](#), Micah Zenko, Council on Foreign Relations, Special Report No. 65, January 2013 - Zenko argues that the United States should end so-called signature strikes, which target unidentified militants based on their behaviour patterns and personal networks, and limit targeted killings to a limited number of specific terrorists with transnational ambitions. He also calls Congress to improve its oversight of drone strikes and to continue restrictions on armed drone sales. Finally, he recommends that the United States work internationally to establish rules and norms governing the use of drones

[Drones are fool's gold: they prolong wars we can't win](#), Simon Jenkins, *The Guardian*, 10 January - New appointments in the White House hail an era of hands-free warfare. Yet these weapons induce not defeat, but retaliation

[High Court refuses to condemn US drone strikes](#), UK Human Rights Blog, 9 January - R (Khan) v Secretary Of State For Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs [2012] EWHC 3728 (Admin) (21 December 2012) – [Read judgment](#)

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[Panetta Urges NATO To Keep Pressure On Al Qaeda](#), *Huffington Post*, 18 January

[Panetta calls for more agile NATO with wider strategic focus](#), *Reuters*, 18 January

[Panetta: NATO Needs to Join U.S. Rebalance to Asia-Pacific](#), *Defense News*, 18 January

[Pacific NATO?](#) Julian Lindley-French, *ISN Blog*, 10 January

Azerbaijan

['I can hardly imagine a direct NATO involvement in protecting BTC and BTE'](#), *News.Az*, 31 January – interviews with David Koranyi, Deputy Director, Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council

[Ambassador: Last Year Important for Expanding NATO-Azerbaijani Relations](#), *The Journal of Turkish Weekly*, 28 January

Bahrain

[Manama keen on reinforcing ties with Nato](#), *gulfnews.com*, 23 January - King Hamad laudes NATO's role in ensuring regional stability

[HM the King receives NATO delegation](#), *Bahrain News Agency*, 22 January

Georgia

[Estonia backs Georgian integration with EU and NATO](#), *Kyiv Post*, 31 January

[Georgia's NATO integration may appear under doubt – Saakashvili](#), *News.Az*, 22 January

[Ivanishvili Speaks on Ties with NATO, Russia](#), *Civil Georgia*, 18 January

Kazakhstan

[Kazakhs Urge NATO Dialogue With Shanghai Cooperation Organization](#), *Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty*, 2 February

Japan

[Dangerous Crossroads: Japan to Seek NATO Support Against China](#), Centre for Research on Globalisation, 14 January

Sweden

[Extremism, NATO on Sweden security agenda](#), *UPI.com*, 15 January

['Sweden can't count on help from Nato'](#), *The Local.se*, 14 January



[Sweden: one of NATO's most active and effective partners](#), NATO News, 14 January - Sweden is a high capability partner, which has provided valuable support to NATO-led operations mandated by the UN. It currently has forces deployed in Kosovo and Afghanistan, and has agreed in principle to participate in the post-2014 NATO-led training mission for Afghan forces. In 2011, Sweden supported the NATO-led air operations over Libya. The country also actively participates in NATO exercises and projects aimed at developing military capabilities and training. NATO's Secretary General visited Sweden to discuss how to further strengthen cooperation

[Secretary General in Sweden to build on strong partnership](#), NATO News, 14 January

'NATO and Sweden: natural partners', NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen [video blog](#), 14 January

[Defence Minister 'sets the bar too low': critics](#), *The Local.se*, 9 January - Sweden's defence minister faced a barrage of criticism after she said it was "enough" for Sweden only to be able to defend itself militarily for a week

Gender:

[NATO Secretary General releases annual report on women, peace and security](#), NATO News, 15 January - the Secretary General detailed the Alliance's efforts over the past year to implement UNSCR 1325 in its operations and activities in his second annual report on this issue. Adopted in 2000, the Resolution recognizes the disproportionate effect of armed conflict on women and children. All NATO Allies and partners are committed to ensuring that gender considerations are integrated into security work (photo credit: NATO)

[NATO Secretary General's Second Annual Public Report on Implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace And Security, and Related Resolutions](#), Annex to PO(2013)0001

Kosovo:

[NATO "satisfied" with Belgrade-Priština dialogue](#), *B92*, 17 January

Our Alliance is not like a coalition of the willing. We offer political transparency and political oversight. We offer tried-and-tested military command and control. And we offer full participation in the decision-making process.

'NATO and Sweden: Strong Partners in support of the United Nations', [Speech](#) by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen in Sälén, Sweden, 14 January

[NATO Stuck in Kosovo](#), Laurence Norman, *Wall Street Journal*, 14 January

Mali Crisis:

[Nato rules out Mali role but backs French intervention](#), *RFI*, 1 February

[France backs plan for UN peacekeeping force in Mali](#), *The Guardian*, 31 January - Defence minister says France would play role in UN force as troops capture airport in last rebel-held town

[As Mali's Islamists retreat, Tuareg civilians fear vengeful army's reprisals](#), *The Guardian*, 31 January - Amnesty International claims Malian

soldiers have executed dozens of civilians after French-led forces drove out rebels

[Mali conflict: African and western nations pledge \\$450m for military force](#), *The Guardian*, 29 January - Japan, which saw the heaviest losses at the In Amenas gasfield siege in Algeria, among the biggest donors with \$120m

[With Fighters Gone, Malians Welcome Normal Days](#), *New York Times*, 27 January

[Securing the Sahel: a role for NATO?](#) Paul Pryce, *NATO Review*, January 2013 - NATO has a well

established partnership programme with several North African countries bordering the Sahel region of Africa. But as the region witnesses more high profile instability, could NATO play more of a role?

[What's Next for Mali and Algeria?](#) Anouar Boukhars, *Carnegie Europe Article*, 23 January

[Responses to Sahel Terrorism: Music to Jihadist Ears](#), Michael Clarke, *RUSI Analysis*, 22 January

[Rasmussen: 'No role for NATO in Mali'](#), *euronews*, 18 January

[The West and Radical Islamists in Mali](#), Marc Pierini, *Carnegie Article*, 16 January

[U.S. Sees Hazy Threat From Mali Militants](#), *New York Times*, 16 January

[France pledges to fight until Mali's Islamist rebels are wiped out](#), *The Guardian*, 16 January - air raids continue 'day and night' in battle with insurgents, but French president dismisses suggestion of colonialism



[The Price of Inaction in Mali](#), Romeo Dallaire and Kyle Matthews, *National Post*, 15 January

[Crisis in Mali](#), Alexis Arieff, Congressional Research Service, 14 January

[Mali conflict: France has opened gates of hell, say rebels](#), *The Guardian*, 14 January - Islamist militant leader warns French government as fighter jets continue assault on rebel camps and convoys in Mali

[NATO backs France in Mali, but says no aid](#), *The Australian*, 14 January

[French Strikes in Mali Supplant Caution of U.S.](#), *New York Times*, 13 January

[French Airstrikes in Mali Deter Islamist Rebels](#), *New York Times*, 12 January

[Mali poses new challenge for NATO](#), *The China Post*, 12 January

[France Battling Islamists in Mali](#), *New York Times*, 11 January

[No formal request made to send troops to Mali](#), *Nato says*, *Africa Review*, 9 January

[Nato says no request on Mali role](#), *News24*, 9 January

[Nato forces needed in Mali, says AU's Thomas Boni Yayi](#), *BBC News*, 9 January

[African Union head wants NATO to help fight Mali rebels](#), *Reuters Canada*, 8 January

Maritime Security and Piracy:

[Top pirate leader retires as NATO, EU navies keep up the pressure](#), Christopher Szabo, *DigitalJournal.com*, 11 January

[East Africa: EU Naval Force French Frigate Surcouf and Nato Warship U.S Halyburton Work Together to Apprehend 12 Suspect Pirates](#), *AllAfrica.com*, 8 January

[NATO and EU Work Together to Disrupt Pirate Group](#), *NATO News*, 6 January - the NATO warship, USS Halyburton and the FS Surcouf from the EU naval task force worked together to disrupt a pirate vessel which is believed to have

Any US president during his second term can take a stronger position and act in a more decisive manner, and that is exactly what Barack meant.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, asserting that it is within President Obama's power to hammer out a deal on missile defence with Moscow should he choose to do so; [Obama Has Not Shown Promised 'Flexibility' on Missile Defense: Medvedev](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 29 January

attacked a merchant ship earlier in the day

Missile Defence:

[NATO chief dismisses Russian missile defense worry](#), *Huffington Post*, 2 February

[Army Should Keep Managing Patriot Antimissile System, Analysis Finds](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 29 January

[Cost Excesses for Missile Defense Satellites Could be Worse: Air Force](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 18

January

[Antimissile System Held Back by Kill Vehicle: Pentagon](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 16 January

[U.S. Army Europe forces deploy in support of NATO missile defense](#), *United States Army Press Release*, 9 January

NATO Chiefs of Defence Meeting:

[NATO Planners Look to Enduring Force in Afghanistan](#), *US Department of Defense*, 17 January

[NATO Chiefs of Defence bring transformation to the forefront](#), *NATO News*, 17 January - the Military Committee in Chiefs of Defence format set out a vision for NATO Command and Force structures which must be capable, interoperable and also able to operate together with partners to meet the full spectrum of future challenges

[Dempsey Attends NATO Chiefs of Defense Meeting](#), *US Department of Defense*, 16 January

[168th NATO Chiefs of Defence meeting](#), *IMS Press Release*, 11 January - NATO and Partners' Chiefs of Defence gathered at NATO HQ for the first Military Committee in Chiefs of Defence format of 2013. General Knud Bartels, Chairman of the Military Committee, chaired the discussions on NATO

Transformation post 2014, Afghanistan, and partnership. Admiral Jim Stavridis (SACEUR) and General Jean-Paul Paloméros (SACT) supported sessions with their insights (photo credit: NATO)

[Dempsey to explain Afghan "zero option" at NATO](#), *Foreign Policy (blog)*, 11 January



NATO-Russia Relations:

[Old stereotypes obstruct Russia-NATO partnership – Lavrov](#), *The Voice of Russia*, 2 February

[Rasmussen Urges Russia to Be Open With NATO About Baltic Drills](#), *Bloomberg*, 1 February

[Russia and NATO to run joint exercises and talk on missile defense](#), *Russia Beyond the Headlines*, 23 January

[Russia-led military bloc offers cooperation with NATO](#), *Russia Today*, 17 January

[Russia, NATO agree on 2013 cooperation plan](#), *The Voice of Russia*, 17 January

[NATO-Russia to monitor airspace safety](#), *Air Traffic Management*, 16 January

[Russia-NATO: bolstering partnership or playing trust?](#) *The Voice of Russia*, 15 April

[Level 3 Network Enables NATO-Russia Council to Monitor Airspace Safety of Commercial Flights](#), *PR Newswire UK (Press Release)*, 14 January

[NATO, Russia chiefs of staff to meet in Brussels](#), *The Voice of Russia*, 14 January

Nuclear Weapons:

[Biden and Donilon preparing for new nuclear discussions with Russia](#), *Foreign Policy*, 30 January

[Dutch Parliament calls on Government to make removal of TNW a 'hard goal'](#), Wilbert van der Zeijden, *NATO Watch Comment*, 29 January

[NATO Divided Over Arms Control Panel](#), Oliver Meier, *Arms Control Today*, January/February 2013

[Theatre Nuclear Weapons and the next round of bilateral New START Treaty follow-on talks](#), Edmond E. Seay III, *Nuclear Policy Paper No. 12*, ACA, BASIC & IFSH, January 2013

[Arms Control During Obama's Second Term: What May the U.S. Want and How Can Europeans Contribute?](#) Jacek Durkalec and, Łukasz Kulesa, *PISM Strategic Files No. 28*, January 2013

[The Baltic States, NATO and Non-Strategic Nuclear Weapons in Europe](#), Shatabhisha Shetty, Ian Kearns and Simon Lunn, *RUSI and ELN Occasional Paper*, December 2012



[The Future of NATO's Deterrence and Defence Posture - Views from Central Europe](#), Łukasz Kulesa (ed), Report of the Polish Institute of International Affairs in partnership with the Nuclear Security Project, December 2012 - this report contains chapters written by international security experts from the region as well as contributions from the United States. The contributors were asked to concentrate on the perceptions of the security environment and threats in their countries or sub-regions of Central Europe, the assessment of the credibility of NATO's defence and deterrence posture, and the way forward, especially from the point of view of the sustainability of the current posture

Reform:

New NATO LibGuide on '[Smart Energy](#)' - the NATO ESCD Energy Security Section has just launched a LibGuide on 'Smart Energy'. This LibGuide serves as a central information sharing

platform on the topic of energy efficiency and effectiveness in the military at NATO. It is a part of the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) project 'Smart Energy Team' (SENT)

[NATO RIP](#) - Can NATO RIP be made to mean "Rejuvenation, Insurance and Protection"? Harlan Ullman, *UPI.com*, 23 January

[Interoperability, Availability Top NATO Transformation Priorities](#), *Defense News*, 14 January

[Interoperability, capabilities, partnerships top priority for Gen. Paloméros](#), *NATO News*, 14 January - General Jean-Paul Paloméros said that his top three priorities as SACT were to foster Allied interoperability and capabilities and bolstering cooperation with partners

Responsibility to Protect (R2P):

[Responsibility while protecting: are we asking the wrong questions?](#) Xenia Avezov, *SIPRI*, 13 January

Special Forces:

[Building connectivity between Special Forces and partners](#), *NATO News*, 1 February - optimising the employment of Special Forces and building on the lessons learnt in current operations is crucial to improving Alliance capabilities. The NATO Special Operations Headquarters (NSHQ) is training Allied and partner Special Forces to improve



their interoperability and to create a network of trained personnel (photo credit: NATO)

Syria Crisis:

[Syria: how we can end the bloodshed](#), Jonathan Steele, *The Guardian*, 31 January - Israel's attack on Syria shows how volatile this conflict is. A political solution is now urgent

[The Consequences of Intervening in Syria](#), Scott Stewart, *Stratfor*, 31 January

[Why Doubts Are Growing About Alleged Syrian Chemical Attack](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 29 January

[Syria's Kurds: A Struggle Within a Struggle](#), International Crisis Group, *Middle East Report* N°136, 22 January

["NATO Must Make A Humanitarian Intervention in Syria"](#), interview with Assoc. Prof. Selçuk Çolakoğlu, Turkish Foreign Policy Expert from USAK, *Journal of Turkish Weekly*, 19 January

[U.S. Wants to Move Syrian Chemical Arms to Nearby States for Incineration](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 18 January

♦♦ [Should Obama Have Intervened in Syria?](#) Marc Lynch, *Foreign Policy*, 17 January - or would US military involvement merely have made a disaster worse?

[Syria Has Fired More Than 20 Ballistic Missiles: NATO](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 14 January

[NATO Allies Hold Off on Weapons, Military Support for Syrian Rebels](#), *Defense News*, 11 January

[U.S. Military Likely Unable to Prevent Syrian Chemical Attack: Dempsey](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 11 January

[Pentagon weighs how to secure Syria's chemical weapons](#), *CNN*, 11 January

[Responsibility to Object](#), David Kaye, *Foreign Policy*, 10 January - it's time for the UN Security Council to do something about war crimes in Syria

[Protection of minorities must take priority in Syria transition](#), Amnesty International, 10 January

[Syria fires ballistic missile at rebels, Nato says](#), *BBC News*, 10 January - the Syrian military has fired a ballistic missile towards cities in the north, NATO says, making it the third such launch in recent days

[NATO casts missile noose on Syria](#), *The Voice of Russia*, 9 January

[The New Logic of the Syrian Conflict and its Meaning for NATO](#), Jean-Loup Samaan, NATO Defense College, *Research Paper* No.86, December 2012

Transatlantic Cooperation:

[NATO Demise Redux?](#) Stephen M. Saideman, *ISN*, 4 February - many commentators continue to worry that the US's pivot towards Asia will make NATO more irrelevant. This author is not one of them. He sees the partnership continuing to thrive for three reasons – its accumulated knowledge, its unique level of interoperability, and its coalition building capacities.

[Will Europeans Ask the Right Question in Munich?](#) Jan Techau, *Carnegie Europe*, 31 January

[As the EU Crumbles, Only NATO Can Keep Europe Together](#), Felix Seidler, *RUSI Analysis*, 24 January - in 2012, the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for guaranteeing peace and stability in the last sixty years. Yet, in 2013, its very existence is in doubt. It is time to consider NATO as Europe's guarantor of peace

Transparency and Accountability:



The Secretary General's Annual Report 2012

[The Secretary General's Annual Report 2012](#), 31 January

[NATO's Second Annual Report: Defense Matters!](#) Mark R. Jacobson, *German Marshall Fund (blog)*, 1 February

[NATO Annual Report 2012: US Carries Burden Due To Allies' Defense Budget Cut](#), *RTT News*, 31 January

[NATO Chief Says Security, Economy Are Linked](#), *ABC News*, 31 January

Upcoming Events:

[58th General Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association](#), Rome, Italy - 4-6 February 2013 - the topic is NATO and the Future of Cooperative Security. Key points on the agenda will include: Middle East and Mediterranean Cooperative Security, Modern Defence and Economic Development, and NATO 2020

[Syria's peace: what, how, when?](#) London, Open Democracy, 12 February - What work should be done now to create and build upon opportunities for de-escalation, and widen options for Syrians?

[NATO Defence Ministers' Meeting](#), Brussels, 21-22 February - chaired by the NATO Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen

[The Black Sea Region: Bringing Future Decision Makers Together in the Changing World](#), Armenian Atlantic Association, Yerevan, Armenia,

13-14 March 2013 - the goal of the conference is to reinforce a dialogue between the current and next generations of stakeholders from the Black Sea Region and give them a floor for regional cooperation, by enabling a discussion, assessing the conflict management and security challenges in the region and identifying common obstacles

[Abolition 2000 Annual General Meeting](#), Edinburgh, Scotland 17-19 April - the Scottish Parliament and people have expressed their opposition to nuclear weapons – and specifically to the UK basing its entire nuclear arsenal in Scotland. Scotland will be voting in a referendum for independence in 2014, and the Scottish desire to become a NWFZ provides an opportunity to fundamentally challenge the UK's nuclear policies and practices – perhaps driving the UK toward complete nuclear disarmament. This meeting is being arranged in Scotland to demonstrate international solidarity and support for the Scottish anti-nuclear campaign – and for the global campaign for nuclear abolition.

[10th International Security Forum](#), Geneva, 22-24 April - the 10th International Security Forum: Facing a World of Transitions addresses the multiple transitions we face in today's international security environment. Whether political-military in nature – such as nuclear threat and disarmament or the question of geopolitical shifts – or issues touching human security – such as peace-building or dignity – they pose states unprecedented challenges

Security News from NATO Member States:

(photo credit: darkmatter/flickr)

Bulgaria

[NATO Crisis Management Center to Be Set Up in Bulgaria's Sofia](#), *Novinite.com*, 29 January

Canada

[Canada: Right to Information Law Needs Major Overhaul](#), Centre for Law and Democracy, 16 January

Czech Republic

[Czechs join NATO defense mission in Turkey](#), *Radio Prague*, 11 January

France

[The French Connection](#), Philip Carter, *Foreign Policy*, 24 January - Why is the United States paying for its ally's adventures in Africa?

[France in Mali: What Risk for the 'New' Hollande?](#) Cathy Haenlein, *RUSI Analysis*, 22 January

[French Military Chief Presses Against Nuclear Force Changes: Report](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 11 January

[France Won't Give up Nukes: President](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 9 January

Germany

♠♠ [Why were German soldiers 'attacked' in Turkey?](#) *Deutsche Welle*, 24 January

Greece

[Greece's fragile political stability at risk as violence escalates](#), *The Guardian*, 23 January - attacks targeting politicians, journalists, banks and now a shopping mall stoke fears of growing extremism

Hungary

[Hungarian President makes first visit to NATO headquarters](#), NATO News, 17 January - NATO Secretary General thanked Hungary's President János Áder for his country's strong support to the Alliance's operations in Afghanistan and Kosovo, during the president's first visit to NATO HQ

Lithuania

[Secretary General welcomes Lithuanian leadership and commitment](#), NATO News, 1 February -Lithuania has shown leadership and commitment in facing security challenges, and can play a leading role in tackling economic challenges as well, NATO Secretary General said

Norway

[Norway Restricts Nuke-Linked Investments](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 14 January

Romania

[Romania to support Afghanistan beyond NATO's 2014 pullout](#), *Hurriyet Daily News*, 23 January

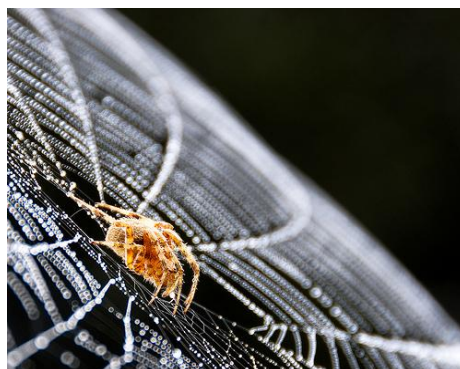
Slovakia

[NATO exercise reveals flaws in national communications system](#), *The Slovak Spectator*, 29 January

Turkey

[Four Patriot batteries operational in Turkey](#), NATO News, 30 January - NATO now has command and control of two Dutch and two German Patriot batteries located in Adana and Kahramanmaraş in the south of Turkey. These four Patriot anti-missile systems are now actively defending these locations from missile threats

[Second pair of NATO Patriot Missile batteries go live](#), *Al Arabiya News*, 29 January



[First NATO Patriot operational in Turkey](#), *Hürriyet Daily News*, 26 January

[First NATO Patriot battery in Turkey operational](#), NATO News, 26 January - the first of six Patriot missile batteries deploying to Turkey was declared operational and placed under the command and control of NATO (photo credit: NATO)



[OSCE media freedom representative concerned about continued arrests of journalists in Turkey](#), OSCE Press Release, 24 January

[Turkish nationalists attack NATO soldiers](#), *euronews*, 23 January

[Ankara Responds to the Chaos in Syria](#), Aaron Stein, *RUSI Analysis*, 23 January

[NATO Expects Patriot Missiles to Begin Protecting Turkey This Weekend](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 23 January

[Media update on Patriot deployment to Turkey](#), NATO News, 23 January - update on NATO's deployment of Patriot batteries to Turkey by the NATO Spokesperson Oana Lungescu and the Director of the Comprehensive Crisis and Operations Management Center (CCOMC) at SHAPE, Brigadier General Gary Deakin

[Dutch, German Patriot Batteries Now in Turkey](#), *Global Security Newswire*, 22 January

[Protests in Turkey as NATO missiles arrive](#), *euronews*, 21 January

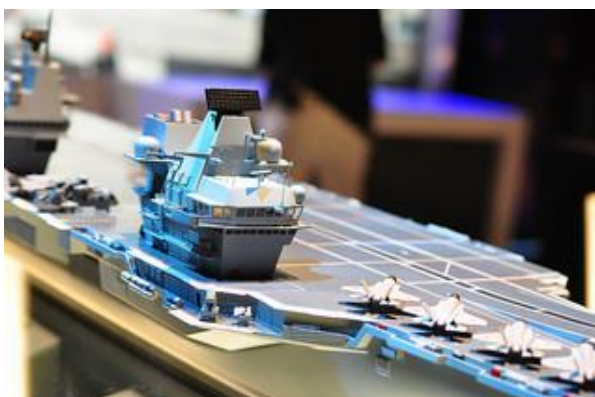
[NATO: German, Dutch Patriot Missiles Arrive in Turkey](#), *Defense News*, 21 January

[NATO Patriot missiles arrive in Turkey to counter Syria risks](#), *Reuters*, 21 January

[NATO sets up missile defense shield in Turkey](#), *Deutsche Welle*, 20 January

[NATO Solidarity with Turkey Gives a Boost to the Alliance's Territorial Defence Guarantees](#), Wojciech Lorenz and Pinar Elman, ISN Article, 15 January - the deployment of Patriot missiles to Turkey may encourage Ankara to reaffirm NATO as a core guarantor of its national security. It may also reinvigorate the credibility of territorial defence guarantees offered by the Alliance

[Turkey Patriot missiles operational by Feb: NATO](#), *Space Daily*, 14 January



[Press Freedom in Turkey](#), Marc Pierini and Markus Mayr, *Carnegie Paper*, January 2013

[Investigation launched after claims of mosque attack in NATO base](#), *Hurriyet Daily News*, 13 January

United Kingdom

[The consequences of a British exit from the EU and](#)

[CSDP: An analytical timeline](#), Philip Worré, *ISIS Europe – NATO Watch Occasional Paper*, January 2013

[Trident subs, aircraft carriers and drones on MoD's £160bn shopping list](#), *The Guardian*, 31 January - Margaret Hodge raises doubts on whether massive weapons spending has been approved by National Audit Office

[No more defence cuts, says David Cameron](#), *The Telegraph*, 30 January - defence spending will rise again to avert the threat of fresh cuts to the Armed Forces, David Cameron has promised

[Time to decide on UK defence policy](#), *Financial Times* editorial, 27 January - Cameron must scale back either the rhetoric or the cuts

[Britain's Prince Harry admits killing Afghan insurgents during Nato stint](#), *Daily News and Analysis*, 22 January

[UK defence minister bullish on arms sales](#), *Financial Times*, 16 January

[ARRC parades in Gloucester to mark NATO role for 2013](#), *BBC News*, 16 January

[Repairing Ministry of Defence 'like turning around a super-tanker', says minister](#), *The Telegraph*, 10 January

[Defence project costs and delays criticised](#), *Financial Times*, 10 January

[The Trident decision](#), *Financial Times*, 9 January

[The price of deterrence](#), James Blitz, *Financial Times*, 9 January - Britain faces intense debate over its nuclear weapons

[Military prone to cyber attack, say MPs](#), *Financial Times*, 8 January – the UK armed forces would be “fatally compromised” in the event of a cyber attack MPs have warned

[Military at loggerheads over carriers](#), *Financial Times*, 8 January

(model of Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier – photo credit: Francisco Antunes/ flickr)

Aircraft carriers give lift to business, *Financial Times*, 8 January

Building the UK's biggest warships, *Financial Times*, 8 January - work is under way on the construction of HMS Queen Elizabeth and its sister ship HMS Prince of Wales - the biggest warships ever built for the UK's Royal Navy, with each ship having the capacity to transport 40 aircraft. HMS Queen Elizabeth is expected to enter service in 2017 and about 700 companies are working on the £5.2bn programme to build the two vessels. (Article contains interactive guide to the main companies and shipyards involved in the project)

United States

♣♣ The Hagel Hearings: The Last Best Chance for the Truth About a Lost War and America's War-Making Future, Nick Turse, *TomDispatch*, 31 January

Ex-CIA Agent, Whistleblower John Kiriakou Sentenced to Prison While Torturers He Exposed Walk Free, *Democracy Now*, 30 January

U.S. Military Could Redefine Global-Strike Weapons, *Global Security Newswire*, 24 January

White House to Proceed With Allen's NATO Nomination, *Wall Street Journal*, 23 January

White House to nominate Gen John Allen as Nato commander, *BBC News*, 23 January

Clinton demands US takes lead to combat 'jihadist threat' in north Africa, *The Guardian*, 23 January - Secretary of State tells Senate committee that al-Qaida in the region threatens African allies and poses direct threat to the US

Dirty Wars: Jeremy Scahill and Rick Rowley's New Film Exposes Hidden Truths of Covert U.S. Warfare, *Democracy Now*, 22 January

In Europe Remarks, Panetta Stresses NATO Commitment, *Department of Defense*, 15 January

The Pentagon as a Global NRA - for Washington, There Is No Arms Control Abroad, Tom Engelhardt, *TomDispatch.com*, 13 January

US cuts put ceiling on defence projects, *Financial Times*, 10 January

I strongly condemn today's bomb attack on the Embassy of the United States in Ankara, which killed and injured a number of people. This is an outrageous attack on the diplomatic premises of one Ally, on the territory of another Ally. It shows a reckless disregard for human life and for the inviolability of diplomatic staff

Statement by the NATO Secretary General on the bomb attack on the US Embassy in Turkey, NATO News, 1 February

Learning to Love Torture, Zero Dark Thirty-Style -Seven Easy, Onscreen Steps to Making U.S. Torture and Detention Policies Once Again Palatable, Karen J. Greenberg, *TomDispatch.com*, 10 January

Rapid Downsizing Looms at Pentagon, *Global Security Newswire*, 9 January

"So Many People Died" The American System of Suffering, 1965-2014, Nick Turse, *TomDispatch.com*, 8 January

Foreign Relations of the United States, 1969–1976, Volume XLI, Western Europe; NATO, 1969–1972

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(1948 ... Richard Nixon checks microfilm – photo credit: x-ray delta one/ flickr)



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